



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Former Employee of Federal Reserve Board Pleads Guilty to Stealing, Distributing Government Cell Phones

WASHINGTON - Christina M. Allen, a former telephone operator for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, pled guilty today to stealing cell phones from the Federal Reserve Board in 2006 and 2007, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Elizabeth A. Coleman, Inspector General of the Federal Reserve Board announced today.

Allen, 42, of Fort Washington, Md., entered her guilty plea to one count of theft of government property before the Honorable Henry H. Kennedy Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. She is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 3, 2010, and faces a statutory maximum sentence of ten years of imprisonment. Under federal guidelines, Allen faces a sentencing range of up to 12 months in prison.

According to the government's evidence, the defendant worked in the Voice Communications Unit of the Federal Reserve Board in 2006 and 2007, where she had access to cell phones belonging to the Federal Reserve Board. Allen stole at least seven of these cell phones, giving some away and selling others. The defendant told recipients of the phones that the phones came with unlimited calling plans. The recipients proceeded to accrue approximately \$60,000 in cell phone charges that were billed to the Federal Reserve Board.

In announcing today's guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen and Inspector General Coleman commended the efforts of the agents of the Office of the Inspector General of the Federal Reserve Board. They also praised the work of members of the United States Attorney's Office, including Paralegal Specialist Diane Hayes, Legal Assistant Jared Forney, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Lionel André, who indicted the case and is prosecuting the case with Assistant U.S. Attorney Bryan Seeley.

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